



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/SIMMONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006

CONTACT: JOHN GOODWIN

202/225-2076

SIMMONS ONCE AGAIN DELIVERS FOR CT'S DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, today announced that the House of Representatives passed the fiscal year 2007 Defense Appropriations bill. The annual spending measure contains a number of items important to Connecticut's defense workers, including funding for submarine manufacturing and design, additional Blackhawk helicopters, and Pratt & Whitney engine assembly.

"Once again, the House has passed a defense spending bill that funds programs vital to the Second District and the state of Connecticut," Simmons said. "As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, it is my job to fight very hard for federal dollars that keep work at EB, Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky and Hamilton Sunstrand."

The annual Defense spending bill, which is expected to pass the House later this evening, includes funding for programs critical to Connecticut's defense industries:

Electric Boat

- \$2.5 billion for one Virginia-class submarine.
- \$17 million for additional design work on the Virginia Class program to help keep EB designers and engineers at work.

Hamilton Sunstrand

- \$5 million for the NP 2000 Propeller System.

Pratt & Whitney

- \$2.9 billion for 20 F/A-22 fighter aircraft and \$477 million for the advanced procurement of 20 more aircraft in 2008.
- \$3.4 billion for 12 C-17 *Globemaster III* cargo aircraft, including \$789 for 3 replacement aircraft more than requested.
- \$730 million for procurement of F-35 *Joint Strike Fighters* (JSF).
- \$291 million for JOINTSTARS re-engineering.
- \$30 million for VAATE – Versatile Affordable Advanced Turbine Engine.
- \$15 million extra for F-16 "Block 42" engine upgrades.
- \$30 million for Integrated High-Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology.
- \$15 million for the Tip Turbine Engine Concept.

Sikorsky

- \$581 million for more than 38 Army Blackhawks.
- \$1.25 billion for 43 Navy Blackhawks.
- \$363 million for the Marine Corps' CH-53K Heavy Lift Replacement helicopter.
- \$224 million for the Air Force's Personnel Recovery Vehicle helicopter.
- \$194 million for Navy and Army Firescout helicopters.

Simmons concluded, "Tonight's expected action by the House shows that Connecticut's defense industries continue to be an integral part of our nation's military. I am pleased with this bill and will continue to work hard as Connecticut's only member of the House Armed Services Committee to ensure that the innovation and skill of the Connecticut worker remains part of the foundation of our national and homeland security."

###